

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

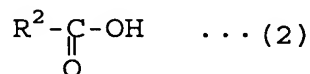
Claim 1 (Original): A composition for forming a coating film, which comprises a reaction product of a tantalum alkoxide and at least one compound selected from the group consisting of carbamic acid, carboxylic acid and carboxylic anhydride and a solvent and which is used to form a tantalum oxide film.

Claim 2 (Original): The composition for forming a coating film of claim 1, wherein the tantalum alkoxide is represented by the following formula (1):



wherein R^1 is an alkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms, with the proviso that five R^1 's may be the same or different.

Claim 3 (Original): The composition for forming a coating film of claim 1, wherein the carboxylic acid is represented by the following formula (2):

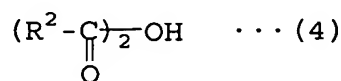


wherein R^2 is an alkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms or haloalkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms, or the following formula (3):

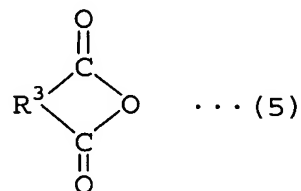


wherein R^3 is a single bond, methylene group, halomethylene group, alkylene group having 2 to 6 carbon atoms, haloalkylene group having 2 to 6 carbon atoms, alkenylene group having 2 to 6 carbon atoms or haloalkenylene group having 2 to 6 carbon atoms.

Claim 4 (Original): The composition for forming a coating film of claim 1, wherein the carboxylic anhydride is represented by the following formula (4):



wherein R^2 is as defined in the above formula (2), or the following formula (5):

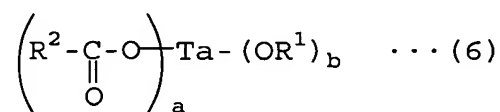


wherein R^3 is as defined in the above formula (3).

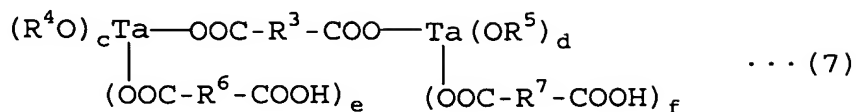
Claim 5 (Original): The composition for forming a coating film of claim 3, wherein the carboxylic acid is maleic acid or citraconic acid.

Claim 6 (Original): The composition for forming a coating film of claim 4, wherein the carboxylic anhydride is maleic anhydride or citraconic anhydride.

Claim 7 (Original): The composition for forming a coating film of claim 1, wherein the reaction product is at least one selected from the group consisting of a compound represented by the following formula (6):



wherein R^1 is as defined in the above formula (1), R^2 is as defined in the above formula (2) or amino group, "a" is an integer of 1 to 5, and "b" is an integer of 0 to 4, with the proviso that $a + b = 5$, and a compound represented by the following formula (7):



wherein R^3 , R^6 and R^7 are each independently a single bond, methylene group, halomethylene group, alkylene group having 2 to 6 carbon atoms, haloalkylene group having 2 to 6 carbon atoms, alkenylene group having 2 to 6 carbon atoms or haloalkenylene group having 2 to 6 carbon atoms, R^4 and R^5 are each independently an alkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms, “c” and “e” are each an integer of 0 to 4, with the proviso that $c + e = 4$, and “d” and “f” are each an integer of 0 to 4, with the proviso that $d + f = 4$.

Claim 8 (Original): A method of preparing the composition for forming a coating film of claim 1, comprising the steps of:

(1) reacting a tantalum alkoxide with at least one compound selected from the group consisting of carbamic acid, carboxylic acid and carboxylic anhydride in the presence of a solvent as required; and

(2) adding a solvent to the obtained reaction product as required so as to prepare a composition for forming a coating film, containing the solvent.

Claim 9 (Original): A method of forming a tantalum oxide film, comprising the steps of:

(1) forming a coating film of the composition for forming a coating film of claim 1 on a substrate; and

(2) thermally and/or optically treating the coating film.

Claim 10 (Original): A tantalum oxide film formed from the composition for forming a coating film of claim 1.

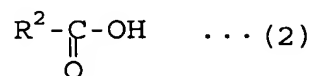
Claim 11 (Original): A tantalum oxide film formed by the method of claim 9.

Claim 12 (New): The method of forming a tantalum oxide film of claim 9, wherein the tantalum alkoxide is represented by the following formula (1):



wherein R^1 is an alkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms, with the proviso that five R^1 's may be the same or different.

Claim 13 (New): The method of forming a tantalum oxide film of claim 9, wherein the carboxylic acid of the composition is represented by the following formula (2):

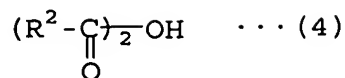


wherein R^2 is an alkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms or haloalkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms, or the following formula (3):

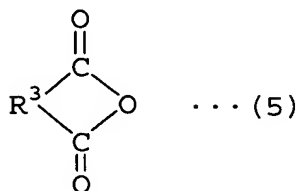


wherein R^3 is a single bond, methylene group, halomethylene group, alkylene group having 2 to 6 carbon atoms, haloalkylene group having 2 to 6 carbon atoms, alkenylene group having 2 to 6 carbon atoms or haloalkenylene group having 2 to 6 carbon atoms.

Claim 14 (New): The method of forming a tantalum oxide film of claim 9, wherein the carboxylic anhydride of the composition is represented by the following formula (4):



wherein R^2 is as defined in the above formula (2), or the following formula (5):

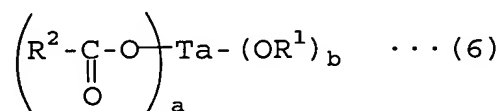


wherein R^3 is as defined in the above formula (3).

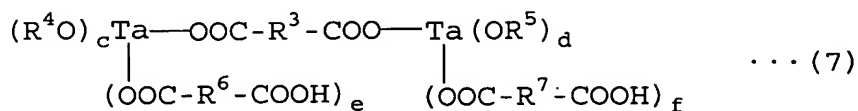
Claim 15 (New): The method of forming a tantalum oxide film of claim 13, wherein the carboxylic acid is maleic acid or citraconic acid.

Claim 16 (New): The method of forming a tantalum oxide film of claim 14, wherein the carboxylic anhydride is maleic anhydride or citraconic anhydride.

Claim 17 (New): The method of forming a tantalum oxide film of claim 9, wherein the reaction product of the composition is at least one selected from the group consisting of a compound represented by the following formula (6):



wherein R^1 is as defined in the above formula (1), R^2 is as defined in the above formula (2) or amino group, "a" is an integer of 1 to 5, and "b" is an integer of 0 to 4, with the proviso that $a + b = 5$, and a compound represented by the following formula (7):



wherein R^3 , R^6 and R^7 are each independently a single bond, methylene group, halomethylene group, alkylene group having 2 to 6 carbon atoms, haloalkylene group having 2 to 6 carbon atoms, alkenylene group having 2 to 6 carbon atoms or haloalkenylene group having 2 to 6 carbon atoms, R^4 and R^5 are each independently an alkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms, "c" and "e" are each an integer of 0 to 4, with the proviso that $c + e = 4$, and "d" and "f" are each an integer of 0 to 4, with the proviso that $d + f = 4$.

SUPPORT FOR THE AMENDMENT

Claims 12-17 are added.

The claims are supported by claims 2-7 and the specification, as originally filed.

No new matter has been added by the amendments.

Upon entry of the amendment, claims 1-17 will be active.